

Atty. Dkt No.  
33737W013

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Kunihiro Oka, et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be

Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For : JOINT AND A STEERING ASSIST SYSTEM USING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees, please amend the claims as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Applicants have attached to this Amendment documents entitled "Amended Claims" and "Marked-Up Copy of Previous Claims". Please replace claim 9 with amended claim 9. Please add new claims 11-17 as shown in the document entitled "Amended Claims".

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees. This Preliminary

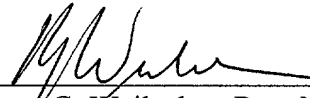
Amendment is being filed to remove the multiple dependent claims to avoid the surcharge.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 18, 2002

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS



## AMENDED CLAIMS

9. A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 2.

12. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 3.

13. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 4.

14. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 5.

15. (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 6.

16 (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 7.

17 (New) A steering assist system for providing steering assist by transmitting the rotation of an electric motor to a steering shaft via a worm shaft, as a rotating shaft formed with a worm, and a worm wheel meshed with the worm of the worm shaft,

wherein an output shaft of the electric motor and the worm shaft are interconnected via the joint as claimed in Claim 8.